



Date: March 29, 2005
Contact: Chuck Ward, 896-5266

BILLINGS – It's time again for the annual 17 Mile clean up at the popular target shooting area on Crooked Creek Road, 17 miles north of Billings. The volunteer effort will run from 8 a.m. until about noon on Saturday, April 9.

The 17 Mile Area receives extensive recreational use, and litter problems were threatening the site's viability until the annual cleanups were organized several years ago.

Earlier this year, shooting closures at several other BLM sites in Yellowstone County became permanent to maintain public safety and to protect other resources. BLM and its eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council produced a shooting safety brochure that lists the closed sites, outlines guidelines for target shooting on BLM land, and provides a map to the 17 Mile area. The brochure is available at the BLM office in Billings and at area gun shops. With other areas closed to target shooting, the 17 Mile site's viability becomes more important.

Anyone with an interest in the keeping the public lands clean and safe is invited to participate, especially those who frequent the area. Volunteers should bring rakes and shovels for collecting small pieces of the trash. Trash bags, drinking water and portable toilets will be available. Volunteers should wear long trousers, long sleeved shirts, and gloves, and bring sunscreen, insect repellent, and outer clothing appropriate for the weather.

To get to the area, take U.S. Highway 87 north toward Roundup for about 12 miles past the old Heights K-Mart. Then head west on Crooked Creek Road for about a half mile.

During the cleanup, the area will be closed to all shooting.

For more information, contact Ranger Chuck Ward at the BLM's Billings Field Office at 406-896-5266.

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